

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5108

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DEPT PASS NOAA FOR MARTINEAU

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TGEN, UR, US
SUBJECT: US-USSR WORLD OCEANS AGREEMENT: POLYMODE (06.02.01)

REF: STATE 53955

1. CONCERNING QUESTIONS OF RESIDENT LIAISON SCIENTIST EXCHANGE AND USE OF DIRECT TELEX LINK WHICH HAVE PLAGUED BILATERAL POLYMODE RELATIONS FOR THE PAST MONTHS, EMBASSY REMAINS OF THE OPINION THAT A SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION OF THESE ISSUES CAN BE ACHIEVED ONLY AT THE UPCOMING JOINT COMMITTEE SESSION. SOVIET COMMITMENT TO THE TWO PROJECTS HAS BEEN GRUDGING AT BEST AND IT APPEARS LIKELY THAT ONLY THE FULL WEIGHT OF A JOINT COMMITTEE DECISION WILL PRODUCE ACTION BY THE SOVIETS.

2. SEVERAL MAJOR FACTORS CONTRIBUTE TO SOVIET HEEL-DRAGGING. (A) SIDORENKO HIMSELF IS NOT IN FAVOR OF EITHER PROJECT AND HAS STATED THAT HE IS WILLING TO GO ALONG WITH THEM ONLY BECAUSE HE FEELS BOUND TO HONOR THE COMMITMENT MADE BY HIS PREDECESSOR. SIDORENKO'S LACK OF ENTHUSIASM HAS NO DOUBT BEEN COMMUNICATED TO HIS ASSISTANTS AND CONTRIBUTES TO THEIR DISINTEREST IN IMPLEMENTING

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THE PROJECTS. (B) SIDORENKO AND HIS ASSISTANTS HAVE NEVER BEEN CONVINCED OF THE RATIONALE FOR A LIASON SCIENTIST EXCHANGE THIS FAR IN ADVANCE OF THE INITIATION OF POLYMODE OPERATIONS. THEY APPEAR TO BE GENUINELY UNCERTAIN OF THE ROLE THE LIASON SCIENTISTS WOULD PLAY, PARTICULARLY SINCE THE SOVIET REPRESENTATIVE IN US WOULD HAVE LITTLE OR NO AUTHORITY TO COMMIT THE SOVIET SIDE ON WITHER POLICY OR OPERATIONAL QUESTIONS. THE DIRECT

TELEX LINK SEEMS AN EXPENSIVE LUXURY TO THE SOVIETS SINCE, THEY INSIST, THERE ARE RELATIVELY FEW MESSAGES TO BE PASSED ON POLYMODE AT PRESENT. (C) THE SOVIETS ALSO FACE VERY REAL BUREAUCRATIC AND OPERATIONAL PROBLEMS IN IMPLEMENTING THESE TWO PROJECTS. A LONG-TERM EXCHANGE OF RESIDENT SCIENTISTS REQUIRES THE CONCURRENCE AND COOPERATION OF SOVIET AUTHORITIES OUTSIDE THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AND OVER WHICH THE ACADEMY HAS LITTLE REAL INFLUENCE. IN IMPLEMENTING THE TELEX LINK THE ACADEMY HAS BEEN LARGELY AT THE MERCY OF THE USSR MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS WHICH MUST APPROVE ALL SUCH OPERATIONS AND WHICH PROVIDES, INSTALLS AND SERVICES THE EQUIPMENT.

3. EMBASSY SCIENCE COUNSELOR WILL BE MEETING WITH AYKAZIAN AND METALNIKOV OF SCST MARCH 17 ON OTHER BUSINESS. AS REFTEL NOTED THAT MARCH 11 PRAHL/METALNIKOV TELECON WOULD BE DEVOTED LARGELY TO POLYMODE ISSUES, EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE LEARNING WHAT PROGRESS WAS MADE DURING THAT DISCUSSION, IN CASE METALNIKOV RAISES ISSUE AT MARCH 17 MEETING. PLEASE ADVISE BY OPENING OF BUSINESS, MOSCOW TIME, MARCH 17.
TOON

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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 15-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
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